



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations of all Atlantic coast fish species, or successful restoration
well in progress by the year 2015*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 14, 2004

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger
(202) 289-6400

States Approve Addendum XV and XVI for Public Comment *Addenda Propose Changes to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass FMP*

Ronkonkoma, NY – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has approved Draft Addenda XV and XVI to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Plan for public review and comment. Atlantic coastal states from Massachusetts through North Carolina will hold hearings in late October/early November to gather input from their constituencies (see list of hearings below).

Draft Addendum XV proposes to establish an allocation program for the increase of approximately 1.3 million pounds in the 2005 commercial summer flounder fishery. The Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board approved the increase in total allowable landings in August. This September, industry members met to identify options for inclusion in the Draft Addendum. Two industry members from each state, Massachusetts to North Carolina, participated in a workshop. The options in the Draft Addendum are intended to address 2005, or 2005 and 2006 fishing years only.

Draft Addendum XVI presents options to address the impacts of delayed implementation of fishery management measures for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. The Draft Addendum presents a suite of management options, including commercial and recreational measures, and notification periods for the Commission and the states. These options aim to discourage delayed state implementation by requiring the “pay back” of the benefits that a state gained as a result of late compliance with an interstate fishery management plan.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

October 28, 2004; 7:00PM

TBD

Contact: Melanie Griffin at 617-626-1530

Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife

November 4, 2004; 6:00PM

URI Narragansett Bay Campus

Corless Auditorium

South Ferry Road

Narragansett, Rhode Island

Contact: Najih Lazar at 401-423-1926

Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection

October 28, 2004; 7:00PM

Marine Headquarters

333 Ferry Road

Old Lyme, Connecticut

Contact: Eric Smith at 860-434-6043

New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation

November 3, 2004; 7:00PM

205 North Belle Mead Road, Suite 1

East Setauket, New York

Contact: Byron Young at 631-444-0436

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

October 26, 2004; 6:30PM

Nacote Creek Law Enforcement Office

Route 9, Mile Post 51

Port Republic, New Jersey

Contact: Bruce Freeman at 609-633-2408

CANCELLED: Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife

October 21, 2004; 7:30 PM

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and
Environmental Control

Richardson and Robbins Building Auditorium

89 Kings Highway

Dover, Delaware

Contact: Rick Cole at 302-739-4782

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

October 20, 2004; 7:00 PM

Worcester County Library Ocean Pines Branch

11107 Cathell Road

Ocean Pines, Maryland

Contact: Howard J. King, III at 410-260-8281

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

October 27, 2004; 7:00 PM

2600 Washington Ave, 4th floor

Newport News, Virginia

Contact: Jack Travelstead at 757-247-2247

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

October 25, 2004; 7:00 - 9:00 PM

C-MAST (Center for Marine Science and Technology)

Room 206 – Agriculture Extension Service

303 College Circle

Morehead City, North Carolina

October 27, 2004; 7:00 - 9:00 PM

DENR Washington Regional Office

Conference Room

943 Washington Square Mall

Washington, North Carolina

October 28, 2004; 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Roanoke Island Festival Park

1 Festival Park

Manteo, North Carolina

Contact: Red Munden 252-726-7021

The Board will meet to review public comment and take final action on the Addenda on November 8, 2004 in New Hampshire. States will be responsible for the timely implementation of all approved addenda, consistent with the schedule developed by the Board.

The Board and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council voted to initiate the development of Amendment 14 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP. The Amendment will comprehensively address all aspects of the summer flounder fishery, including the issue of allocation between the commercial and recreational sectors. Since the latter issue will be thoroughly addressed during the development of Amendment 14, the Board and Council will recommend to the National Marine Fisheries Service that it deny United Boatmen's and Recreational Fishing Alliance's petition for a 50% share of the TALs of summer flounder for the recreational sector.

The Commission and Council jointly manage summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass, meeting annually to establish commercial quotas and recreational harvest limits. The Commission's actions regarding Addenda XV and XVI are taken exclusively under the states' management authority, while Amendment 14 has been initiated in concert with the Council.

Both Addenda can be obtained via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission office at (202) 289-6400. Public comment will be accepted until November 4. Comments should be forwarded to Toni Kerns, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, 1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202)289-6051 or comments@asmfc.org (subject line: Addendum XV or Addendum XVI). For more information, please contact Toni Kerns at (202) 289-6400, ext. 330 or tkerns@asmfc.org.